

DECEMBER 10, 2023



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. MICHAEL

CATHOLIC PARISH

(covering worship sites in Ralston, Canton & Troy)

Reverend Joseph P. Kutch, MA, Pastor

106 N. Washington Street, Canton, PA 17724

Office phone: (570) 673-5253 E-mail: office@stmichaelscanton.com

website: www.stmichaelscanton.com

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8 am - 3:30 pm, Thursdays 8 am - 1 pm

Anointing of the Sick

Through this sacrament the believer is strengthened by Christ's grace through the anointing of Holy Oils. All who are seriously ill, hospitalized, or having surgery can receive this sacrament. Please contact the parish office if you wish to receive this sacrament.

Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated by appointment. All parents must attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the Baptism. Please call the office to schedule dates.

Confessions

Sat: 3:15 - 3:45 pm St. Michael
(also available by appointment)

Matrimony

A meeting with the parish priest should precede all other wedding plans. Couples contemplating matrimony should contact the parish office six months to a year before the celebration of the sacrament.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wed: 6:00 pm, St. Michael's Church
following 5:30 pm Mass,
Benediction at 7:00 pm

First Friday: Adoration after 7 am Mass
until 7 pm, St. Michael's Church

First Fridays

To all elderly and homebound, if you would like a visit from Father Joe on First Friday, please contact the Parish Office and let us know the month before.

C.C.D. (2023/24)

(Religious education classes
held during the school year)

Sun: 8:15 am, St. Michael Church hall

Sun: 10:15 am, St. John Nepomucene
Church hall



Pastoral Council

David Beahm, David Brann, Leslie Debach, Will Hawrylo,
Jean Herman, Ralph Lepper, Sherry Vargson,
Sarah Watson - youth representative

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"As members of the parish community of Saint Michael, Saint John and Saint Aloysius, we are rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ passed on to our Holy Father and in communion with our Bishop. We joyfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and his real presence in the Eucharist. We serve the Lord through acts of faith, hope and charity by the graces given through the Sacraments. It is our intention to carry out this mission so that we may be the face of Jesus Christ in the world."

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 9 Advent Weekday

VIGIL: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Richard O'Neal (John & Pat Rushin)

Sunday, December 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Judy Callahan (Bridget & Shawn)

9:30 am, Canton † Robert Fleury (The Family)

11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo

Monday, December 11 Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Bud Rushin (John & Pat Rushin)

Tuesday, December 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

5:30 pm, Troy † Miriam Forte (Denise & George Morris)

Wednesday, December 13 Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

5:30 pm, Canton † Joseph Spencer (Jeff & Beth Cole)

6:00 pm, Holy Hour

Thursday, December 14 Saint John of the Cross,

No Mass Priest, Doctor of the Church

Friday, December 15 Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory - For healing for Mark Kaczmarek

(Jeff & Beth Cole)

Saturday, December 16 Advent Weekday

VIGIL: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, December 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Jack Callahan (Bridget & Shawn)

9:30 am, Canton † David Snell (His Family)

11:15 am, Troy † Maureen Brimmer (St. Michael's A&R)


Fellowship is held in St. Michael's Church hall following the 9:30 am Mass each Sunday.



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches burn this week for God to help us prepare the way of the Lord by acting with tenderness and compassion, especially toward the most vulnerable among us.

Sanctuary lamp intentions may be requested by contacting the parish office.

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS November 27 - December 3, 2023

Weekly Offerings:	2,230.00
Electronic Offerings:	1,570.00
Other Parish Income:	365.50
 Total Parish Income:	4,165.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,211.61
Difference:	(46.11)
Care & Education of Priests:	572.00
St. Vincent DePaul*:	2,000.00

**Stays in the parish, but is not assessed by the Diocese.*

Thank you for your continued support.

Advent Penance Services

Sunday, December 10th
3 pm - Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

Sunday, December 17th
2 pm - Church of the Epiphany, Sayre

Sundays are ALWAYS
HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
The 4th Sunday of Advent, 2023
is also Christmas Eve. Christmas is a
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.
The Mass schedule is as follows:



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
VIGIL OF THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, St. Michael's Church

6:00 pm, St. John's Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, St. Aloysius Church

9:30 am, St. Michael's Church



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES

4:00 pm, St. Michael's Church

7:00 pm, St. Aloysius Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS MASSES

12:00 am (Midnight), St. John's Church

9:30 am, St. Michael's Church

SEE YOU AT MASS!



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



As of December 1st, we are at 47.75% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$5,730 has been donated or pledged. 38 families have donated thus far, which is a participation rate of 24.31% of 144 active families in the parish. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

Sing For Joy

There will be ONE rehearsal, at 10 am on Friday, December 23rd, in the choir loft of St. Michael's Church for anyone who would like to be part of the program of Christmas Carols and other seasonal music that precedes the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. We will run through the program which will begin at 3:30 pm in St. Michael's Church to lead us all into the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass. If you can't make the rehearsal, but want to join us on Christmas Eve, please come on up to the choir loft!

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.



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Women's Retreat

Bold and Beloved

Inspired by the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

January 26-28, 2024

Holy Transfiguration
Retreat Center
1000 Seminary Rd.
Dalton, PA 18414




THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2023

THE SPIRITUALITY OF ADVENT

Dr. Tim Gray discusses the spirituality of Advent and the joy of waiting for Christ.



THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF

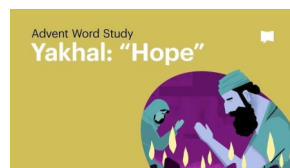
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE | CHRIS STEFANICK SHOW

Check out this episode of the Chris Stefanick Show to learn the amazing story Our Lady of Guadalupe.



YAKHAL/HOPE | ADVENT: WORD STUDIES THE BIBLE PROJECT

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.



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Use zip code 17724 to find our parish

DAILY REFLECTIONS ON FORMED

WHAT ARE DAILY REFLECTIONS?

Each Daily Reflection is a short video that features Dr. Tim Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your life. Dive deeper into the joys and mysteries of Sacred Scripture with Dr. Gray and enjoy the richness of the liturgical seasons as never before.

Sign up here: <https://daily.formed.org/>

Blue Christmas

Thursday December 21st 7:00pm



LET THE DARKNESS GATHER, WE WILL
MAKE A HOME THERE. THE WEARY
WORLD IS WAITING. ~Sarah Bessey

On the darkest night of the year, this evening of word and song invites you to **COME AS YOU ARE** with all of your heartaches and heartbreaks. This special program welcomes **EVERYONE** as a community to come together and lay our brokenness and burdens down, if only for the night.

Music by Chris Dincher, Brimmer Engel, Kristin Fisher, and members of the St. Boniface Contemporary Choir

St Boniface Church
326 Washington Blvd, Williamsport

feel seen, feel comfort, feel peace, feel love, feel hope

A Communal Rosary is prayed at 9:30 on Thursday mornings in St. Michael's Church. All are invited to participate.



POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER: A FLAVORLESS TRADITION THAT'S OH SO SWEET

by SARAH ZIELINSKI

Nothing says "I love you," at least in my Polish-American family, quite like the sharing of a thin, flat, tasteless wafer called *an oplatek* at Christmas.

We're not alone. Before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner, many families with roots in Poland and other Eastern European countries will take part in this tradition, which has roots dating back hundreds of years.

"For us, Polish Americans, the *oplatek*, that wafer, is Christmas Eve," says Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of the book *Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore*. "It defines people's heritage."

Christmas Eve marks the end of Advent. Traditionally, that meant the last day of fasting, so in mostly Catholic Poland, the dinner was typically meatless. The menu might have included items such as pea soup, boiled potatoes, fried fish and stewed fruits, Knab notes in *The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook*.

Before the meal, though, came a small, informal ceremony — one that is still carried out in many homes, including in the U.S.

At the start of dinner, just after grace, the male head of the household takes the wafer and expresses his hopes for his wife in the new year. He might wish her good health, or ask for forgiveness for some fault.

"My father used to say, 'OK, I'm not the best, but I'll try harder,' " Knab says. "My mother would always say, 'You work so hard and I appreciate you for that.' "

The wife breaks off a piece of the *oplatek* and eats it. She then reciprocates the good wishes and shares the wafer with her husband. And the ceremonial sharing of wafer and good wishes continues with older relatives, guests and children, starting with the oldest.

"The sharing of this unleavened bread with another person is sharing all that is good with life," says Knab. "It's a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.' And you do it in an open area, where everyone else can see you."

The wafer is typically a rectangle about the size of a hand and embossed with a Christmas scene, such as the Nativity. It is made of flour and water pressed between two engraved pieces of metal and is similar to the bread wafer used in Holy Communion. To be frank, it can be pretty dry and tasteless (my family struggled to finish our wafer last year), but the sentiment is so sweet that it's worth the effort.

Ethnographers believe that the tradition may have gotten its start with the sharing of a ritual flatbread called *podplomyk*, Knab says. Pieces of the thin bread, usually baked before other loaves of dough were placed in the oven, were shared with members of the household, and with neighbors, as a gesture of goodwill.

"Bread was very hard to come by" in the Middle Ages, Knab says. "Sharing of this bread was a caring kind of exchange."

That bread eventually morphed into the flat wafer, says Knab, and the sharing continued. During World War II, with families scattered all over the world, people would send pieces of *oplatek* to remind them of each other.

And some continue to include the wafers in their mailings. "I still get letters from Poland with pieces," she says.

The *oplatek* tradition spread among Lithuanians, Czechs and Slovaks. And even families decades removed from their Eastern European roots share the wafers.

"It has just continued down through the generations," Knab says, "because it's such a beautiful tradition."

From: www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2012/12/19/167650665



The oplatki wafers are available at the entrances of all three churches. All we ask is a \$2.00 donation per packet to defray the cost.

Each packet contains 6 wafers of different colors, all of which are edible.

I hope you enjoy this custom!



POPE FRANCIS'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Tom Ambruch, Karl Barton, April Bilbrey, Joseph Blaszc, Gus Branish, Joy Brann, Betty Brown, John Chapman Jr., Dennis & Barbara Clarke, Todd Congdon, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Leon English, Melissa Gowan, Cassie Hamburger, Gary & Erin Hamilton, Cody Heim, Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Antoinette King, David Kule, Jo Kule, Mike Losey, Joyce Maloney, Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore, Orlando Moralez, Delina Morgan, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker, Gary Polly, Dee-Dee Ramsey, Patricia Rogers, Rich Stankiewicz, Mary Catherine Taylor, Joe Turk, Matthew Warren, Glenda Watson, Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf, Nicholas Wolf

Christmas Pageant

The CCD children at St. Michael's will have their annual Christmas pageant at the end of the 9:30am Mass on Sunday December 17th. The children would appreciate your support in their endeavors to learn and spread the message of Christmas.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

St. Michael's Altar & Rosary Society will host the annual Christmas Party for children, infants to age 12, after the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 17th. All children are invited. A sign up sheet is next to the bulletins in St. Michael's Church for children who are not in the St. Michael's CCD program. Please sign up by December 10th.

DECEMBER 11 - 17, 2023 READINGS

Mon - Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 5:17-26
Tues - Zec 2:14-17 (Pd) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:26-38
Wed - Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30
Thurs - Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15
Fri - Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19
Sat - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun - Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54
 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASAP



Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) is a featured program of the Knights of Columbus supporting mothers and their children, born and unborn, by serving pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes. St. Michael's KOC is hosting a drive for the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center, Canton this December. To participate, please bring new items to the drop box in the back of the church. You can also purchase items on the Amazon.com registry that has been established - see below.

ITEMS REQUESTED:

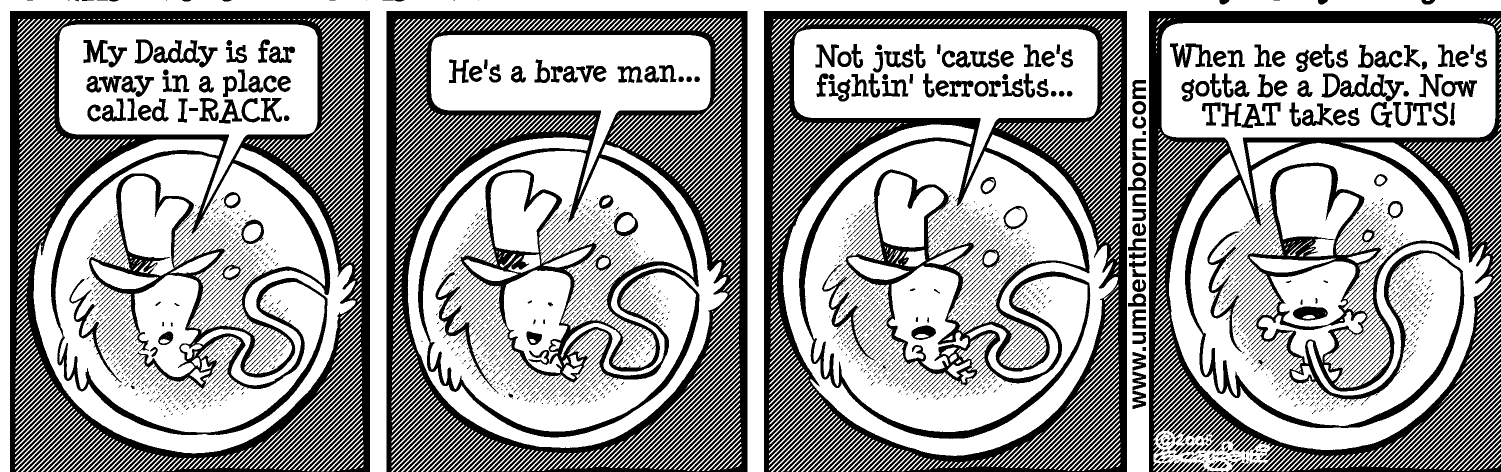
- NCVI Breast Pump 8782 – 4 items
- Boys and Girls Pull-ups: sizes 2T-3T, 3T-4T, 4T-5T – 5 boxes each
- New outfits (any season): Boys and Girls; sizes 0-3 months, 2T – 10 each
- New Sleepers: Boys and Girls; sizes 0-3months, 2T – 10 each

TO PURCHASE ONLINE:

Go to https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3OQIQ5SDNI3WA?ref=gr_search_page_result (a link is on the parish website under News from the Knights) Items will come up to choose from. You can have items delivered to you and then bring them to church, or you can have items delivered to the St. Michael Registry address (David Beahm's home). Everything will be delivered to the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center, Canton at the end of December.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





Knights of Columbus Council #5517

Looking for new members.
Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:15 in St. Michael's Hall.



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Email:
hawthornridge@gmail.com
PA030014
St. Michael Parish member



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**SAINT MICHAEL'S
ALTAR & ROSARY
SOCIETY**
St. Michael's
Altar & Rosary
Society is open to
all women of
the parish. We meet on the
2nd Wednesday of each month
in Saint Michael's church hall
at 1:00 pm. We always wel-
come new members.

BARRETT LAW OFFICES
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Attorney and Counselor at Law

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James Paul
Pazzaglia**



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